

## Hauser, Kerrie J MVP

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**From:** Larry Bierke <Larry.Bierke@iowacounty.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 09, 2016 10:25 AM  
**To:** Hauser, Kerrie J MVP  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Big Hollow Wetland Project

Army Corps of Engineers:

Thank you for providing for a period of public comments and for considering the concerns of Iowa County on the "Big Hollow Wetland Project". 2016-00537-KJH

Iowa County, Richland County, and Sauk County are the three owners of the Tri-County Airport located near the site of the proposed Big Hollow Wetland Project. This regional facility was made in an effort to reduce costs of providing airport transportation options independently and at greater cost to taxpayers. From its inception, the airport has grown and served as a recreational and business transport option for the area residents. The airport continues to grow and expand contributing toward regional prosperity. As such, Iowa County has a few concerns about proposal 2016-00537-KJH:

1. The airport currently serves as a resource for a significant area and population interested or dependent upon aviation for business growth or livelihood. The further growth potential could be hindered with the additional attraction of wildlife to the area because of the development of a wetland. Wetlands attract many different types of animals and those animals are not respectful of lot lines. We are very concerned about their impact upon existing flight operations and the potential our airport has for expanding into jet traffic. Any animal in a jet engine would be a hazard – a hazard that would halt the growth and attractiveness of this rural airport and thence significantly impact the economic development opportunity for our Tri-County Region.
2. The Tri-County Airport was created and is supported with tax payer dollars from a large three county region. Should the Army Corps of Engineers approve a wetland near an airport, I am concerned that this will become a case study or news report of how one governmental agency is working in contradiction to the initiatives of another. This could become one of those "wasted tax dollars" stories on Nightline. It would be simpler for the wetlands proposal to find a better location 15-20 miles away than for these three counties to use taxpayer funding to recreate the existing airport in a new location.
3. The public notice that was issued on April 11th, 2016 made no mention of the location of our Tri-County Airport, located less than three miles away. Given the impacts this proposal would have on uses like an airport, it was relevant to mention.
4. One of the purposes of wetlands is to continue providing habitat for animals dependent on that environment. Have the effects of airplanes and jets on animal prosperity been studied? It would likely be a disturbing attribute to have the noises of planes and jets, on approach, flying directly above birds' nesting and other animal habitats.

Desired changes:

A. Iowa County desires that this proposed wetland be moved to a location that will not devalue the usefulness and future growth potential of our taxpayer supported Tri-County Airport.

Again, thank you to the review team for taking the time to consider our comments.

Larry Bierke

Iowa County Administrator

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